

NC DEPARTMENT OF  
**HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES**  
Division of Child Development  
and Early Education

# Resuming the Star Rated License Reassessments

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# NC Department of Health & Human Services Top Priorities

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**Behavioral Health  
and Resilience**



**Child & Family  
Well-Being**



**Strong and Inclusive  
Workforce**

# Raise NC Families and Children to Raise North Carolina

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- **Children and families** are at the center of our work at NCDHHS.
- Each child—regardless of their socio-economic status—needs access to high-quality early care and learning teachers in order to have an equal opportunity to fulfill their potential and contribute to society.
- **Early care and learning teachers** provide the partnership, resources and expertise to help families with the intellectual and social-emotional development of their infants, toddlers and preschoolers.
- Investing in the workforce of high-quality early care and learning teachers gives children what they need to succeed, parents the confidence to support their families and pursue their career goals, and the state a highly productive present and future workforce.



A group of young children are sitting at a wooden table, smiling and playing with colorful geometric toys. The child in the foreground, a young girl with curly hair wearing a blue shirt, is holding a red geometric toy. Other children are visible in the background, also smiling and playing. The scene is bright and cheerful, suggesting a positive learning environment.

# Resuming the Star Rated License Reassessments

# Looking Back at Rated Licenses through the COVID 19 pandemic

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**NC has demonstrated its commitment to safe, quality early learning with a statewide Quality Rating Improvement System (QRIS) that is embedded in the licensing process.**



**Rated licenses reassessments  
halted in 2020**

Provided a modified assessment in summer  
of 2021



**SB 570 became law in August  
2021**

Hold Harmless for all facilities that held a  
rated license

# Where we are now....

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- **Navigating a workforce crisis**
- **Helping facilities with overhead costs through grants**
- **Establishing programmatic and education assistance**
- **Extension of Hold Harmless Legislation (SB-291)**
- **Planning Phase (Cohorts/Timelines)**



# Cohort Planning

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- **Cohort 1 = 1786 (approximate)**

- 2020 and prior = 651
- 2021 = 1135

- **Cohort 2 = 2047 (approximate)**

- 2022 = 1412
- 2023 = 635

- **Cohort 3 = 1232 (approximate)**

- 2024 = 229
- 2025 = 743
- 2026 = 160



# Cohort Timeline

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- **Cohort 1**

- Preparation Year: July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024
- Reassessment Year: July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025

- **Cohort 2**

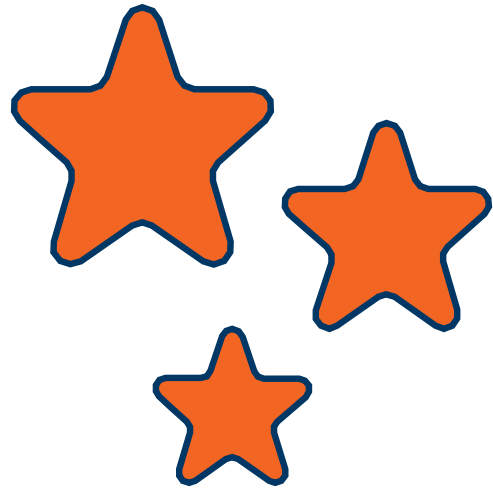
- Preparation Year: July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025
- Reassessment Year: July 1, 2025-June 30, 2026

- **Cohort 3**

- Preparation Year – July 1, 2025-June 30, 2026
- Reassessment Year – July 1, 2026-June 30, 2027







# **Programmatic and Education Initiatives**

## Prep Year – What will happen?

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- **Consultants will reach out to facilities in the cohort applicable to that year**
- **Consultants will help to determine your needs and establish timeline for technical assistance and reassessments over the next two years**
- **Consultants will share in conversation with you about timing of AC visits versus the rated license reassessment visit timeframes.**
- **Consultants will share programmatic and education initiatives**
- **Consultants will help facilities become familiar with technical assistance being offered in your territory**

# North Carolina Rated License Assessment Project (NCRLAP)

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- **NCRLAP has resources and training available on their website**
  - [www.ncrlap.org](http://www.ncrlap.org)
- **Requesting and Using Environment Rating Scale (ERS) Scores**
  - Assessments can be requested during the preparation year and scores can be used as guidance to enhance program quality
  - If desired, assessment scores can be used during the preparation year if the operator wants to move forward with a rated license reassessment
  - Assessment scores can be saved to use during the reassessment year
  - Facilities can request another ERS assessment in your reassessment year for any ERS assessment scoring less than a 5.0



# Programmatic Support

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- **Consultants will work with you to determine your facility's needs and refer you to local partners**
- **Partnering agencies can offer your facility technical assistance and training**
  - NC Partnership for Children
  - NC Child Care Resource and Referral
  - Child Care Health Consultants



# North Carolina Early Childhood Equivalency Exam

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- The ***North Carolina Early Childhood Equivalency Exam*** that can be taken on DCDEE Moodle is a new pathway option for experienced child care professionals.
- Those passing the exam with a grade of 80% or higher will receive the new ***North Carolina Early Childhood Equivalency Certificate***.
- This new certificate is comparable to a North Carolina Early Childhood Credential and will qualify the individual to be a Lead Teacher, Teacher, and Family Child Care Home Provider.
- If you have any questions about the NC Early Childhood Equivalency Exam, please contact: [DCDEE.Equivalency.Exam@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:DCDEE.Equivalency.Exam@dhhs.nc.gov).



# FAQ for the North Carolina Early Childhood Equivalency Exam

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- **What if I don't score high enough? Can I try again?**
  - You may make 2 attempts to pass the exam within 6 months. If you don't pass the second attempt, you will be advised to pursue one of the other equivalency options.
- **What does it mean to pass the NC Early Childhood Equivalency exam?**
  - Those passing the exam with a grade of 80% or higher will receive a North Carolina Early Childhood Equivalency Certificate.
- **No professional development hours, contact hours or college credit are given for attempting or passing the NC Early Childhood Equivalency exam.**
  - This exam does not take place of or is not equivalent to EDU 119.
- **I passed the Quiz! What do I do next?**
  - Once you receive your North Carolina Early Childhood Equivalency Certificate, go to the DCDEE Workforce Online Reporting and Knowledge System (WORKS) to upload your certificate. Use your NCID to login.

# FAQ for the North Carolina Early Childhood Equivalency Exam

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- **What do I need to take the NC Early Childhood Equivalency Exam?**
  - Be 18 years of age or older
  - Have a High School Diploma or equivalent.
  - Have or create an individual NCID Account
- **How long is the quiz and what can I expect while taking the exam?**
  - This exam has 100 questions which are made up of multiple choice and True/False questions. This is a timed exam. It will be 1 hour long.
- **Who administers the NC Early Childhood Equivalency Exam?**
  - The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services' Division of Child Development and Early Education (DCDEE) via its online Moodle Training Portal at <https://www.dcdee.moodle.nc.gov/>.
- **Is there a fee to take the NC Early Childhood Equivalency Exam?**
  - There is no fee to take the Exam.

# Credit for Prior Learning in Early Childhood Education

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- **Available from participating North Carolina Community Colleges**
- **Example of how Credit for Prior Learning Works (Coming Soon)**
  - If a person has an active CDA, they can receive credit for 7 semester hours (EDU 119 and 151) with CDA documentation.
  - If the person initiates submitting a portfolio to the Community College for review, they could receive an additional 6 semester hours (EDU 130 and 159) if all portfolio requirements are met. If not, they may have to enroll in the necessary coursework.
- **With the completion of the portfolio requirement, a person could complete two additional courses (EDU 162 and 188) by enrolling in a local community college for a Workforce Certificate.**
- **Colleges may choose to accept this plan or not...it would not be mandatory.**

# NC Community Colleges: Partnering with Local High Schools

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- Redesigning ECE 1 & 2 High School course into one course and developing performance-based measures.
- Aligning content in the High Schools and Community College curriculum courses to support articulation.
- Partnering with NC Department of Public Instruction to support NC Career and College Promise, as well as, Career Technical Ed pathways, and apprenticeship opportunities in our local High Schools.
- *Building Bright Futures* is a pilot program that supports early childhood pre-apprenticeships and apprenticeships in North Carolina, providing guidance, resources, and financial support to participants.

# New Pathway Options for High School Students

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## *Option 1*

### **EARNED ARTICULATED COLLEGE CREDIT AND NCECC EQUIVALENCY**

- Successfully complete the approved Early Childhood Education (FE11- version 2022) course with a grade of “B” or higher
- Obtain a score of 85 or higher on the Performance-based Measurement Portfolio
- Enroll at a community college offering an early childhood education program within two years of their high school graduation date.

## *Option 2*

### **NCECC EQUIVALENCY**

- Successfully complete the approved Early Childhood Education (FE11- version 2022) course with a grade of “B” or higher
- Obtain a score of 85 or higher on the Performance-based Measurement Portfolio
- Have obtained a high school diploma or GED.
- Be at least 18 years of age.

## *Option 3*

### **NCECC CREDENTIAL**

- Complete the EDU 119 course (Introduction to Early Childhood Education) with a “C” or better. This fulfills the requirements for the NCECC.





# DCDEE Workforce Education Updates

# New Degree Considerations:

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- **Early Childhood/Child Development – BA/BS degrees added:**
  - Elementary Education
  - Psychology
  - Sociology
- **School Age – BA/BS degrees added:**
  - Children and Nature
  - Outdoor Leadership
  - Trauma Informed Social Work in Children

# Let's Recap!

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- **Extension of Hold Harmless until June 30, 2024**
- **Right now we're focusing on Cohort 1 only**
- **Take advantage of the programmatic and education initiatives available to you**
- **During the prep year you can request the Environment Rating Scales and you determine how and when to use the scores!**
- **Facilities that undergo a change of location or change of ownership will not be reassessed during the temporary time period**
  - Those facilities will resume the rated license in the cohort they were originally assigned

## In Closing...

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**Questions added to the Q/A section of this webinar will be answered and posted on the DCDEE website.**



**Thank you!**

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